

## CLAIMS

What is claimed:

5           1.     A unison stringed instrument containing a device for increasing tuning longevity comprising:

              a coupling positioned between two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument, said coupling enabling the coupled strings to oscillate in unison.

10           2.     A unison stringed instrument containing a device for increasing tuning longevity comprising:

              a coupling positioned around two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument, said coupling enabling the coupled strings to oscillate in unison.

15           3.     A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

              a coupling positioned between two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument, said coupling enabling the strings to oscillate substantially in unison.

20           4.     A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

              a coupling positioned around two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument, said coupling enabling the strings to oscillate substantially in unison.

25           5.     The device of claim 3 or 4, wherein said coupling comprises a high tensile metal.

              6.     The device of claim 5, wherein said high tensile metal comprises steel, aluminum or titanium.

30

7. The device of claim 3, wherein said coupling is fastened between the strings of said string unison using a tool that is capable of installing the coupling in a manner sufficient for enabling said strings to oscillate in unison at a desired pitch.

5 8. The device of claim 4, wherein said coupling is fastened around the strings of said string unison using a crimping tool that is capable of supplying a level of compression sufficient for enabling said strings to oscillate in unison at a desired pitch.

9. A system for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument,  
10 comprising:

(a) a plurality of couplings sized and arranged within said unison stringed instrument, each coupling being positioned between two or more strings of a string unison of said instrument; and

(b) an installation tool for expanding the strings to a degree adequate for  
15 installation of said couplings.

10. A system for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument,  
comprising:

(a) a plurality of couplings sized and arranged within said unison stringed  
20 instrument, each coupling being positioned around two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument; and

(b) a crimping tool having preset crimping compression values suitable for each size of said couplings.

25 11. A method for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument,  
comprising:

coupling two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument with a coupling device so that the strings oscillate in unison at a desired pitch.

12. A method for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

employing a crimping tool to couple two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument with a coupling so that the strings oscillate in unison.

5

13. A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, said device comprising:

(a) a shaped piece of material having high density and minimal dampening; and

10

(b) a plurality of recesses for receiving two or more strings in unison, wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of adjacent strings of said instrument, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

14. A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, said device comprising:

15

an open metal band curved and shaped so that said band compresses when placed over two adjacent strings of said instrument,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

20

15. A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, said device comprising:

a metal clip curved and shaped so that when placed between two adjacent strings of said instrument, said clip exerts opposing forces on the strings,

25

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

16. A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, said device comprising:

a first and second flat surface, said first flat surface being positioned above adjacent strings of said instrument, said second flat surface being positioned below said adjacent strings, said surfaces capable of being tightened toward each other,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings,  
5 allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

17. A method of altering the tone quality of a unison stringed instrument, comprising placing coupling devices between two or more strings of a string unison of said instrument, said device comprising:

10 an open metal band curved and shaped so that said band compresses when placed over two adjacent strings of said instrument,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

15 18. A method of altering the tone quality of a unison stringed instrument, comprising limiting the free release of certain overtone frequencies by placing coupling devices between two or more strings of a string unison of said instrument, said device comprising:

20 an open metal band curved and shaped so that said band compresses when placed over two adjacent strings of said instrument,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

25 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the ratio of sustain to attack is increased.

20. A method for maintaining the tuning of a string unison within a musical instrument comprising the steps:

(a) installing a coupling link for at least two of the stings in the unison along their speaking length;

- (b) installing at least one crimping link in the non-speaking portion of the stings;
  - (c) tuning the string unison; and
  - (d) sliding one or more of the crimping links in either direction along the
- 5 non-speaking length to adjust the pitch of the coupled strings.

21. A device for the installation of Pitchlock coupling devices comprising a flexible steel strap of sufficient length, wherein the strap includes a notch of sufficient size to accommodate the pitchlock coupling device, and wherein the notch is between 1/16 and 1/2 an  
10 inch from the terminal end of the strap.

22. A device for installing Pitchlock coupling devices comprising a crimping  
plier, with two mated jaws, wherein one jaw is substantially convex in cross section, and the  
other jaw is concave in cross section.